

Withdrawal of OCR Occupational Health and Safety qualifications

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

OCR Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (10176)

OCR Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Practice (10177)

1. **What is the last date I can register candidates?**
The final registration date for this scheme is 31/12/2013.

2. **What is the last date I can certificate candidates?**

Scheme Code	Final Certification Date
10176	31/12/2016
10177	31/12/2016

Please note that the final certification date is the last date in which OCR will produce certificates and therefore it is advised that centres plan for completion of all candidate assessment at least 2 months prior to this date.

3. **I have DCS / ACS – how does this affect the last certification / assessment dates?**

All candidate portfolios will still be subject to the full quality assurance process i.e. an External Verifier will need to visit your centre to review any DCS portfolios before these can be accepted. If you have already had your two free* visits a year you will have to arrange a final visit to your centre by your EV – a fee will be charged for this. Your EV will notify OCR to remove DCS following this final visit.

* This is subject to minimum candidate numbers. EQA visits for small centres with low candidate numbers may be chargeable.

4. **We are a centre in Wales / Northern Ireland – are we affected in the same way?**

Yes. There is no difference.

5. **Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?**

Due to falling market demand and changes to the funding regime, OCR has reluctantly decided to withdraw this qualification.

- 6. Does this mean OCR is withdrawing all qualifications in this vocational area / sector?**
OCR will be withdrawing from the provision of Occupational Health and Safety qualifications at the current time.
- 7. Are all awarding organisations withdrawing these qualifications or is it just OCR?**
This is an OCR decision. Please check on the Register for Qualifications for alternative providers:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>
- 8. What will happen if a candidate fails and wants to resit the unit / qualification?**
As long as they were registered before the last entry date and the final certification date has not passed they can continue to claim units/the full qualification. Claims must be made before the end certification date (see Questions 2 above).
- 9. What if a candidate sits a test / completes their portfolio, but we haven't made a qualification entry for that candidate and it is after the qualification last entry date?**
Candidates need to be registered before the last entry date and claims must be made before the final certification date (see Questions 1 and 2 above).
- 10. I want to enter candidates now but don't know exactly how many I will have. I usually have *20* candidates and enter them unnamed – if I only have 15, can I have a credit for the unused qualifications / components, assuming I haven't incurred any external assessment resource from OCR? How long do I have to claim this credit and how do I claim this credit?**
Full or unit registration fees are non-refundable.
- 11. What alternative OCR qualification(s) could I offer to my learners instead?**
OCR does not offer any alternative Occupational Health and Safety qualifications however other awarding organisations do. Please check on the Register for Qualifications for alternative providers, see link:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>
- 12. What are the changes in assessment between the alternative qualification/s and the qualifications being withdrawn and so what do I need to deliver differently?**
See question 11 above.
- 13. What training is available for this alternative qualification(s)?**
See question 11 above.
- 14. Where do I get information on this alternative qualification(s)?**
See question 11 above.

- 15. If our learners have only achieved half of the qualification in complete units, can they transfer that achievement over to the alternative qualification?**

See question 11 above.

- 16. What is the approval process for these alternative qualifications – am I already approved or what do I need to do to get approval?**

See question 11 above.

- 17. What employer / sector recognition do the alternative qualifications have and can you reassure me that these qualifications have the same equivalent 'currency' with the qualifications being withdrawn, i.e. will local employers recognise this as a qualification of the same quality?**

See question 11 above.

- 18. What is the difference in administration of the alternative qualifications to the qualifications being withdrawn? Who can help me understand how to make candidate entries for the alternative qualifications?**

See question 11 above.

- 19. Will I still have the same assessor for the alternative qualification(s)?**

See question 11 above.

- 20. Who can I talk to, to get more information on this?**

As this qualification was designed for a very specific market, unfortunately there is no alternative OCR qualification.

The Sector Skills Council, Proskills, will be able to advise on qualifications in this sector:

<http://proskills.co.uk/>

- 21. What alternative qualifications from other awarding organisations could I offer to my learners?**

There are a number of other awarding organisations offering Occupational Health and Safety qualifications. For full details please view the Ofqual register:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>